**MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES: A CASE STUDY OF ODISHA STATE**

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**ABSTRACT**

Migration is a key component of evolutionary growth and has a long history in forming human society. People constantly move inside and between particular geographic locations. "Migration" refers to a person's temporary or permanent relocation from one place to another. It is derived from the Latin word "Migrate," which implies moving one's domicile. Unemployment is a major worry in both economic theory and policy formulation despite economies facing various internal and external challenges. Most people look for work to have a steady income, which improves their quality of life. If a person can't find work where they are, they may decide to relocate to a place with more jobs available. We call this "labour migration." Migration is a shift over a certain time from one place to another that frequently crosses administrative boundaries and entails a change in residence. People are driven to relocate from locations with fewer employment prospects to those where jobs are more readily available by the gap in development levels between various economies or regions within the same economy. Migrating within the same country is called internal migration, but migrating abroad is referred to as external migration or emigration. Finding work is one of the main reasons labourers move. Wage disparities can still be a factor in migration, as workers may move from locations with lower pay to those with higher incomes, even when employment prospects are identical in two places.

**Key words:** Labour Migration, poverty, livelihood, developmental policies

**AN INTRODUCTION TO MIGRATION IN ODISHA**

The migration of rural workers has quickly emerged as a significant source of sustenance for rural communities in India during the country's escalating economic challenges. A constant flow of people from states like Odisha, one of India's most disadvantaged regions, has been turning into a torrent due to growing regional imbalances that have opened up new paths for migration. However, due to this migration, exploitative working circumstances frequently arise, such as sporadic, unprotected labour and even bondage.

In Odisha, migration plays a crucial part in sustaining rural livelihoods. A new "migration livelihood" model that combines farming and migration to account for 55–60% of annual household income has arisen in response to the declining returns from agriculture. However, the importance of migration to rural earnings is mainly disregarded by existing policies. A dysfunctional migrant labour market due to the lack of protective policies is fueled by easy access to inexpensive labour from rural Odisha.

Odisha is one of the poorest states in India, with some of the lowest socioeconomic statistics in the nation, including per capita income and the Human Development Index. Many of the population lives in rural areas where the economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, beset by difficulties such as poor irrigation, limited technological input, and little value addition. The severity of the problem is highlighted by the state's rising unemployment rate and incidences of farmer suicide.

In addition, there is a sizable quality disparity in the workforce in Odisha. Only a small fraction has formal training, and most are self-employed or working in agriculture, which pays poorly. Most of the workforce works in the unorganised sector, which is shrinking and frequently pays less than the minimum wage. This bleak outlook starkly contrasts a growing labour force, suggesting that migration will probably increase in the near future due to a lack of local jobs.

In conclusion, the economic situation in Odisha is severe, with underemployment, poverty, and diminishing agricultural profitability all present. An increase in migration has resulted, which, although offering some income, frequently exposes employees to subpar and exploitative conditions. Migration is disregarded in policy planning despite its significance in enhancing rural livelihoods, which feeds a cycle of exploitation and poverty.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To understand the reason of migration
2. To identify the government policies

**MAJOR REASONS OF MIGRATION IN ODISHA**

The following are the main causes of migration out of Odisha:

* **Local Conditions Pushing People to Migrate:** Several factors influence workers' decisions to relocate to new cities. Lack of employment possibilities, higher income in other places, and easier access to facilities like offices, hospitals, and schools are some causes. Compared to the local environment, the work culture in the new place is frequently regarded as superior.
* **The Need for Loans:** People frequently have to move to pursue employment due to financial hardships. Although most people do not borrow money for daily costs, many nevertheless need loans for various purposes because their local revenue sources are often insufficient. To understand the bigger picture of migration, you must comprehend why people borrow.
* **Seeking Better Opportunities:** Migration is influenced by several "pull" and "push" variables. Particularly, seasonal migration has emerged as a typical source of income for rural impoverished people.
* **Social Motives:** People frequently relocate for social reasons, such as a better standard of living or proximity to friends and family.
* **Political Aspects:** Some people migrate to flee political oppression or the devastation of war.
* **Environmental Triggers:** Natural catastrophes like floods, famines, and droughts can all play a big role in the movement of people. Refugees have been compelled to flee their homes without a definite destination and frequently with minimal possessions. This is just another reason why people move.

**POLICIES AND INITIATIVES TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**

To address concerns like migration and employment, the government of Odisha has implemented the following important policies and programmes:

* **The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Work Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):** The act attempts to increase the financial security of rural people by offering up to 100 days of wage-based work annually to households that volunteer for manual labour. MGNREGA serves as a safety net for the unemployed by boosting household income and preventing migration to cities, especially during drought or famine. The programme emphasises building long-lasting assets, bolstering the economic underpinnings of underdeveloped rural communities, and providing monetary incentives. It also addresses the underlying causes of protracted poverty, such as drought, deforestation, and soil erosion, to offer sustainable employment possibilities.
* **Collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE):** The Government of Odisha and the Government of Andhra Pradesh started discussions concerning exploitative labour practises, notably in sectors like brick manufacturing that frequently use migrant workers who are at risk. These conversations, facilitated by MoLE and the ILO, are meant to establish a system for coordination between countries that send and receive labour. The objective is to lessen migrant workers' reliance on lenders and employers, increase their knowledge of their rights, and utilise available support systems while lowering their danger of becoming trapped in bonds of servitude.
* **Odisha Dadan Labour Act of 1975:** Odisha has traditionally emphasised the circumstances that lead to seasonal migration. The Dadan Labour (Control and Regulation) Act, often known as ORLA, was originally introduced by the state in India in 1975. This law protects "debt migrants" or "dadan" workers by enforcing rules regarding their living and working environments. The Act had provisions for formation of a ‘registering authority’ for registration of agents and workers, compliance with minimum wage and basic labour welfare facilities at the place of work, engagement of a Chief Inspector and other inspectors as well the as appointment of a ‘competent authority’ for dispute redressal. Taking a cue from the Odisha Dadan Labour Act of 1975, the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India felt the need for a Central Act on similar lines as the ORLA and thus enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act (ISMWA) in 1979. As a result, the ORLA was nullified on the passage of the new Act.Odisha has been one of the most active states in implementing the ISMW Act. However, although several thousand contractors and workers are registered each year, these are a fraction of the total contractor based on labour migration. This is partly due to the lack of sufficient enforcement, under-staffing and poor infrastructure of the District Labour Office in Odisha. More important however, is the fact that the impact of implementation of the Act is in the destination states, which have been very tardy in regulating the condition of work of the migrants.
* **District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) in 2001-01:** In western districts of Odishait has seen that high percentage of child labour migration. The State Government initiated a single programme which called ‘Residential Care Centre’ for keeping and giving education to the seasonal migrant child labourin association to their parents. The programme was started under the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) in 2001-01 and resulted in the preservation of 3000 child labour in the hostels. Later on the programme was up-scaled and stretched to Bargarh and Nuapada district. The SSA has further built in support to cater to the education needs of migrant children both at source and destination. With the involvement of civil society organisationsin recent years the education of migrant child labour at destination has been initiated in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.In order to provide health insurance to the BPL and unorganised workers, the Government of India launched the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) in 2008. The provisions of the insurance programme are to cater to the health insurance of migrant households.
* **Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE):** With the coordination of Government of India and the ILO to develop a mechanism among the sending and receiving states. The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was to get better access of the brick furnace workers to social security and other entitlements, assist safe migration, and make the migrants conscious of their rights through synchronized efforts of the two states. Being worried about the occurrence of manipulative labour practices including repression situations in brick manufacturing activities that connect poor and susceptible migrant workers the Government of Odisha being initiated negotiations with the Government of Andhra Pradesh with facilitation from the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE). A structure for such harmonization in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed among GoI (MoLE) and State Labour Department of Governments of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in 2012 with the facilitation of the ILO. Both Odisha and Andhra Pradesh have formulated a time-bound and result oriented deed plan to benefit migrant workers particularlythose working in the brick furnacedivision. Succeeding to the signing of MoU an Inter State Coordination Committee was constituted at Central Level on 6th July 2012 to create a sustainable institutional mechanism to come across into the issues of inter-state migration across in India.
* **District Labour Officers (DLOs):** In order to find out the movement of migrant workers along with information on their employers / contractors / agents etc, the formats of Data Collection were distributed to the District Labour Officers (DLOs) in the month of October 2012, to impound data at the G.P. level. Conversation with ILO New Delhi has been ongoing to develop a Tracking Software to track the Migrant labour on line that migrates to Andhra Pradesh every year to work in the Brick furnacedivisions.The concern for clean living for the migrant workers of Odisha at Andhra Pradesh has been taken care of by taking proposal to build semi pucca houses for migrant workers. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to certify the same and the expenses for this shall be borne equally that is Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
* **Facility for seasonal migrant worker:** During seasonal migration, Seasonal hostels have been started in the districts of Bargarh, Nuapada and Bolangir of Odisha by the School and Mass Education Department for giving education of the children of Migrant Workers. The Odisha Primary Education Programme Authority (OPEPA) has been transportOdiya Text Books and Odiya Teachers as per request for schools in Andhra Pradesh to certify education at the work sites for the children of Migrant Workers.
* **Comprehensive state action plan:** The Government of Odisha, in December 2014 came out with a complete state action plan for ensuring enforcement, welfare, entitlements and protection of civil rights of interstate migrant workers moving within and to various states as seasonal workers. A detailed counselling and action plan was issued by Departmentof Panchayat Raj on 17th December 2014. The Action Plan details, and builds upon existing initiatives taken by the government. The action plan was laid out for 11 districts of Odisha which are considered as key migration level district of Odisha. The various targeted district are-Rayagada, Bargarh, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Khorda, Ganjam, Koraput, Subranapur, ,Bolangir and Gajapati. Panchayat Raj department has also allocated a budget of Rs.7.5 crores to carry out broad range of initiatives at the district level and state level. The action plan builds on synchronized action between several State departments. The labour and Employees State Insurance (ESI) department, Government of Odisha has been assigned the responsibilities to conduct episodicreview of migrant workers in this district to recognize various aspects and movement of migration. The government has suggested computerizing the migrant’s data and build up a separate software for the reason of tracking. Strict implementation of the ISMW Act along with other labour laws has been emphasised. A helpline has been set up to provide support for rescue and repatriation of migrant workers in crisis from other states. The ESI Department has also strong-minded to provide financial possessions for sending of rescue team to rescue of migrant labourers living in crisis in other states.
* **Increasing Awareness:** The action plan strongly emphasises informing migrant workers of their rights and entitlements under the law. To raise awareness of this issue, cooperation with Self-Help Groups (SHGs), regional government agencies, labour unions, and NGOs is highly advised. A district-level monitoring committee chaired by the District Collector must be established in each of the eleven targeted districts. The group, which will have a two-year term, will also include other municipal officials and members from NGOs. Additionally, plans are in place to create a State Level Migration Cell with all the necessary resources.
* **The State Institute of Plumbing Technology (SIPT):** It was founded in Patamudai, Kendrapada district, by Odisha in 2010. This programme is a component of a larger action plan to address the problems faced by migrant workers who travel inside and between states. The government is putting out significant effort to enhance the welfare and rights of interstate migrant workers in response to legal pressure from institutions like the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the Apex Court. This institute places a lot of emphasis on providing young migrants with skill training, notably in the plumbing industry.

**CONCLUSION**

Economic development is promoted by migration, which makes it easier for people to relocate from less productive areas to those with better production and growth. Internal migration, however, has been discouraged by barriers, including state-specific incentives linked to long-term residency and other factors. It has been suggested that these limitations be lifted to give migrants more benefit portability.

Several identifying and registration systems have been suggested or put into place to simplify this process. Although other states have started their own systems, they frequently complicate the benefit portability issue. Despite these obstacles, effective models exist, such as the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), which might be expanded if there was enough political and administrative will.

The World Bank and other organisations have long argued for reducing these barriers to promote more efficient migration. Migrant entitlements may become more transferable through the efficient deployment of registration systems and well-planned programmes financed by the central government. For instance, migrant children's school enrolments have increased due to clearly stated entitlements and lenient regulations.

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